

In The Claims

Please cancel Claims 1-52 and add Claims 53-88 as follows.

1 53. A biopsy localization device comprising:
2 a bioabsorbable element in a pre-delivery state prior to its delivery to a
3 soft tissue biopsy site of a patient; and
4 said bioabsorbable element being of a material which is in a post-delivery state
5 at the biopsy site, the bioabsorbable element being at least one of palpably harder than or
6 remotely visualizable within the surrounding soft tissue at the biopsy site when in the post-
7 delivery state.

1 54. The device according to claim 53 wherein the bioabsorbable element has a
2 hardness of at least about 1.5 times as hard as breast tissue in the post-delivery state.

1 55. The device according to claim 53 wherein the bioabsorbable element swells
2 about 50 to 1500 percent from the pre-delivery state to the post delivery state when placed in
3 contact with an aqueous liquid.

1 56. The device according to claim 53 wherein the bioabsorbable element has a
2 longest dimension of at least about 0.5cm when in the post-delivery state.

1 57. The device according to claim 53 wherein the bioabsorbable element
2 comprises a therapeutic agent, the therapeutic agent comprising at least a chosen one of a
3 chemotherapy agent, a radiation agent and a gene therapy agent.

1 58. The device according to claim 53 wherein the bioabsorbable element
2 comprises reservoir means for subsequently receiving a therapeutic agent.

1 59. The device according to claim 58 wherein the reservoir means comprises
2 reservoir means for receiving at least one of a radiation agent, a gene therapy agent and a
3 chemotherapy agent.

1 60. The device according to claim 53 wherein the bioabsorbable element
2 comprises a bioabsorbable filament.

1 61. The device according to claim 53 further comprising a marker element in
2 contact with the bioabsorbable element.

1 62. The device according to claim 61 wherein the marker element is a radiopaque
2 marker element located generally centrally within the bioabsorbable element.

1 63. The device according to claim the 62 wherein the radiopaque marker element
2 is a chosen one of a permanent marker element and a temporary marker element.

1 64. The device according to claim 53 wherein the bioabsorbable element has
2 margins, said margins being roughened so to help prevent migration of the bioabsorbable
3 element within soft tissue of a patient.

1 65. The device according to claim 64 wherein the bioabsorbable element has
2 filaments extending from the margins.

1 66. The device according to claim 65 wherein the filaments are of same material
2 as the bioabsorbable element.

1 67. The device according to claim 53 wherein the bioabsorbable element is
2 remotely visualizable in its post-delivery state by at least one of ultrasound, mammography
3 and MRI.

1 68. The device according to claim 53 wherein the bioabsorbable element is softer
2 in its post-delivery state than in its pre-delivery state.

1 69. A medical device comprising a locatable bioabsorbable element configured for
2 positioning at a biopsy site at the time of taking a tissue sample from the biopsy site.

1 70. A biopsy localization method comprising:
2 taking a tissue sample from a biopsy site within a patient;
3 positioning a bioabsorbable element at the biopsy site;
4 testing the tissue sample; and
5 if the testing indicates a need to do so relocating the biopsy site by finding the
6 bioabsorbable element by at least one of the following:
7 palpation of the patient to feel the bioabsorbable element;
8 locating inflammation at the biopsy site caused by the bioabsorbable
9 element;
10 following a bioabsorbable thread, the thread extending from the
11 patient's skin to the bioabsorbable element; and
12 remotely visualizing the bioabsorbable element.

1 71. The method according to claim 70 wherein the positioning step is carried out
2 using said bioabsorbable element and a radiopaque marker.

1 72. The device according to claim the 71 wherein the radiopaque marker element
2 is a chosen one of a permanent marker element and a temporary marker element.

1 73. The method according to claim 70 wherein the remotely visualizing step is
2 carried out to by at least one of ultrasound, mammography and MRI.

1 74. The method according to claim 70 further comprising the step of selecting the
2 bioabsorbable element so that after positioning at the target site, the bioabsorbable element
3 has a hardness of at least about 1.5 times as hard as the surrounding tissue.

1 75. The method according to claim 74 further comprising the step of effectively
2 preventing blood from contacting the bioabsorbable element until the bioabsorbable element
3 is positioned at the target site, the effectively preventing step being carried out by using a
4 hemostatic bioabsorbable element having a non-hemostatic biodegradable outer layer.

1 76. The method according to claim 71 further comprising the step of placing a
2 marker element at a generally central location within the bioabsorbable element.

1 77. A medical treatment method comprising:
2 taking a tissue sample from a biopsy site within a patient;
3 positioning a bioabsorbable element at the biopsy site at the time of the taking
4 of the tissue sample;
5 testing the tissue sample;
6 if the testing indicates a need to do so, medically treating the biopsy site.

1 78. The method according to claim 77 wherein the medically treating step is
2 carried out by at least one of:
3 injecting a radiation-emitting element at the vicinity of the target site;
4 externally irradiating the target site;
5 providing a triggering substance to the agent; and
6 removing additional tissue at the target site.

1 79. The method according to claim 77 wherein the medically treating step
2 comprises delivering a therapeutic agent to the target site.

1 80. The method according to claim 79 wherein the delivering step is carried out
2 using at least one of:

3 a chemotherapy agent;
4 a radiation-emitting element;
5 thermal energy;
6 ionization energy;
7 gene therapy;
8 vector therapy;
9 electrical therapy;
10 vibrational therapy; and
11 anti-angiogenesis.